

**DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As the inventor named below, I declare that:

I believe I am the original joint and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "SAMPLE PREPARING UNIT" the specification of which was filed on July 3, 2004, as International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2004/007284

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims thereof, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the National or PCT International filing date of the continuation-in-part application, if applicable;

I claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119 from European patent application No. 03016057.6 filed July 15, 2003, and have identified below any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed; and

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that the making of willful false statements or the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

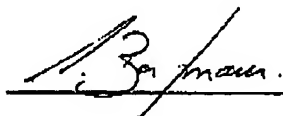
POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint Charles Winston Fallow, Reg. No. 28,946 and Allen P. Rosenberg, Reg. No. 24,946 as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Full name of inventor: BESTMANN Lukas

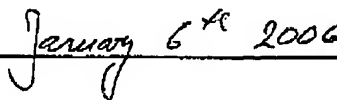
Residence address: Freiestrasse 43  
CH-8406 Winterthur  
Switzerland

Citizen of: Switzerland

Signature:



Date:



BEST AVAILABLE COPY